1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	J & K	4	2903.02	14047.22	8135.20	21-192
9	Karnataka	8	2052.45	1938.99	1602.81	18-35
10	Kerala	2	559.85	559.85	47.63	10-18
11	Madhya Pradesh	5	929.83	1036.56	211.26	3-132
12	Maharashtra	12	6022.63	8311.33	1923.72	2-93
13	Meghalaya	1	71.18	422.60	260.63	93
14	Mizoram	1	368.72	686.95	236.04	32
15	Orissa	9	1824.55	1843.84	1125.74	4-81
16	Punjab	1	508.63	508.63	171.34	18
17	Rajasthan	4	1391.91	1391.91	221.36	1-18
18	Tamil Nadu	7	3683.67	3811.36	1144.94	2-57
19	Uttar Pradesh	19	5495.59	5740.77	3222.39	1-95
20	West Bengal	7	3683.02	3683.02	1975.33	6-35
21	Delhi	3	5367.39	10970.46	10450.54	17-27
22	Chhattisgarh	3	553.47	553.47	235.02	4-11
23	Jharkhand	5	1258.46	1241.19	796.38	3-156
24	Uttaranchal	5	4750.97	8460.19	8168.42	3.91
25	Multistate	23	18880.39	22582.12	15914.63	1-159
	TOTAL :	159	98035.79	129567.1	68117.58	

Indians in Pakistani Jails

†*26. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indians are detained in Pakistani jails, if so, the reasons for keeping them in prisons;

(b) the approximate number thereof and since how many years they are imprisoned; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action to get these prisoners released and if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per information available, there are 741 Indian nationals in custody in Pakistan. Out of them, 153 are civilian prisoners, 514 fishermen and 74 POWs. The period of their detention various according to the sentence awarded. Some of them are yet to complete their sentence. There are also prisoners who have served their full sentence but remain in custody pending their repatriation to India. The Indian fishermen have been arrested under the Pakistan Fisheries Act on charges of illegal fishing in Pakistani waters. The civilian prisoners have been arrested mainly under the Foreigners Act for illegally entering Pakistani territory. Some of them have been charged for spying and convicted under the Pakistani Security Act. Of the 74 personnel of Indian Defence Forces believed to be in Pakistan's custody, 54 have been there since 1971-72. Pakistan Government have consistently denied the presence of any POWs in their custody.

(c) Government has repeatedly taken up the issue of Indian prisoners with Pakistan. As a result of Government's persistent efforts, Pakistan released a large number of Indian prisoners in the last three years. Since 2003 till date, a total number of 2106 Indian prisoners, including 1887 fishermen and 219 civilian prisoners, have been released by Pakistan. Last year alone Pakistan released 1171 fishermen and 125 civilian prisoners. This year so far 93 fishermen and 19 civilian prisoners have been released. However, while India has kept its commitments on consular access to and release of Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen, it is disappointing that Pakistan failed to fulfil its obligations as agreed during Home Secretary level talks in May 2006. Pakistan released only 20 Indian fishermen on 30 June 2006 though the national status of 240 had been confirmed. India is processing consular access even to Mohammad Fahad, who has been involved in recent Mysore terror plot. Most recently the issue was once again raised at the Foreign Secretary level talks held in New Delhi on 14-15 November 2006. In the Joint Statement issued at the end of Foreign Secretary level talks, both countries agreed to release all civilian prisoners and fishermen whose national status has been confirmed and who have completed their sentence by 25 December 2006.